HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU IN CONSULTATION WITH THE STATE BOARD OF MASSAGE THERAPY TO STUDY MASSAGE THERAPY LICENSURE STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES OF OTHER STATES AND WHETHER HAWAII'S LAWS PREVENT QUALIFIED MASSAGE THERAPISTS EDUCATED AND TRAINED IN ANOTHER STATE FROM PRACTICING IN HAWAII.

WHEREAS, massage is one of the oldest of healing arts and the health benefits of massage are well accepted, varied, and far-reaching; and

WHEREAS, massage therapy is an essential part of Hawaii's health and wellness tourism industry and massage therapists also provide needed health care services to Hawaii's residents; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the availability of well-trained and experienced massage therapists, licensed and ready to provide services to the community, would improve health care services in the state and strengthen our health and wellness industry; and

WHEREAS, questions have been raised as to whether the standards and procedures for massage therapist licensure do not adequately recognize training and experience gained outside of the state and prevent qualified massage therapists educated and trained in another state from practicing in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, to determine whether this is the case, more information is needed to allow a comparison between Hawaii's standards and procedures for massage therapist licensure, and those of other states; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Legislative Reference

1 Bureau, in consultation with the State Board of Massage Therapy,
2 is requested to:

- (1) Study the standards and procedures of other states for massage therapist licensure, including any provisions for reciprocity with other states;
- (2) Compare the standards and procedures of other states with those under Chapter 452, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to determine whether Hawaii's standards and procedures prevent qualified massage therapists educated and trained in another state from becoming licensed in Hawaii; and
- (3) Report its conclusions and recommendations, including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature not later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2010 Regular Session;

and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Chairperson of the State Board of Massage Therapy.

Tay Handle Mele Canall

Mindy Comments

The HMS 2009-1149

FEB 1 8 2009